

I was told by some people that, well, that money is already spent; that's not like having money in the bank, it's already spent. I would like to ask any of you here in the room, does anybody have a dollar in their pocket that isn't already spent? And when you think about the house payments you've got and the car payments you've got and the gas you're going to have to buy and the tuition, what's the difference, ladies and gentlemen? Nothing. Sure, it's already spent. It's budgeted. Wouldn't it be nice to have a budget coming in so that you could always have \$2.00 in your pocket and never have to worry about spending it? In the case of the university, \$70 million on a daily basis. I'm going to share that with you because that...you know, if you've got a \$2.5 million problem or a million dollar problem or a \$600,000 problem or even a \$50,000 problem, it's hard for you to imagine that that money that was developed from whatever source, tuitions, from hospital rates that the people will have to pay at the university, \$43.00 a day more, if you can imagine that when they decide to spend that \$43 million which we just routinely let them spend, knowing full well it wouldn't take general money so that's okay, comes out of somebody else's hide, that's fine. They've got 70 million bucks in the bank, a lot of other agencies have that kind of money as well. Some of the other agencies' budgets do fluctuate considerably but not the university's. It stays at about that much and been as high as almost 90 on occasion. It would seem to me that there is room here in those funds burning the pockets of the university. You know, if this were just invested at 5 percent, they would have enough money, if they just used the interest one year, to pay for the building without ever having to talk about other sources of funds at all. So I do have problems with the budget process. And I have to admit I get a little frustrated when anybody, whoever it is, a member of the Appropriations Committee, or anyone else, say, well, you don't understand. Yeah, we understand and I think that's one of our problems and more and more of us on the floor are beginning to question, you know, why people refuse to help us understand these kinds of problems and why the Legislature is made the goat when something doesn't happen right when people have this much money burning up their pocket.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, please, followed by Senator Abboud.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body, the last few days and again this afternoon we talked about